

Rowley Regis
Urban District Council
STAFFORDSHIRE
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

ANNUAL REPORT

For Year 1919,

— OF THE —

School Medical Officer,

— ON THE —

Medical Inspection of Children

— IN —

PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

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INDEX.

	Page
Accommodation	4
Available Methods of Amelioration and Treatment ...	19 & 20
Board of Education—Table I.	5
" " " II.	6
" " " III.	22
" " " IV.	12
" " " V.	13
Defective Vision	7
Dental Diseases	7
Diphtheria	8
General Review of Social Conditions	18
Heating of Schools	3
Infectious Diseases	20
Influenza	10 & 11
Measles	8 & 9
Medical Inspection Staff	1
Mumps	10
Notifiable Diseases	8
Nutrition	7
Physical Conditions	7
Pneumonia	9
Review of Methods adopted re Blind, Deaf, etc., Children ...	12
Sanitary Condition of Schools	2
Scarlet Fever	8
School Nurses' Report	14 & 17
Summary of Medical Inspection Work	2
Tuberculosis	7
Un-notified Zymotic Diseases	10
Whooping Cough	10

ROWLEY REGIS URBAN DISTRICT EDUCATION
COMMITTEE.

**ANNUAL REPORT of the SCHOOL
MEDICAL OFFICER,**

For the Year ending December 31st, 1919.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my twelfth annual report on the medical inspection of school children in this district.

MEDICAL INSPECTION STAFF.

The Medical Staff (all part-time officials) consists of the School Medical Officer, who is also Medical Officer of Health, two Assistant Medical Inspectors and three School Nurses. There are also two full-time female School Attendance Officers.

The district is divided into two areas for medical inspection, and into three areas for administration by the School Nurses, each Nurse being responsible for her particular area.

The Nurses—who are also Health Visitors—devote one-third of their time to School duties, which consist of:—

Attendance at all medical inspections.

Preparation of children for examination.

Ascertaining particulars relating to family history, and records of any previous illness.

Paying of periodical visits to schools, and keeping under observation all children excluded at the school medical inspection.

Home visits and instruction of parents in the treatment of minor ailments and verminous conditions, and seeing (as far as possible) that the treatment recommended by the medical inspector is carried out.

Inducing parents to be present at inspections.

Sending written advice to parents not present.

SANITARY CONDITION OF SCHOOLS.

The interior and exterior of the Boys department at the Macefield Council School has been painted and coloured, and the interior of Blackheath Council School has been painted and repaired. No other structural alterations or decorations have been undertaken since the commencement of the war, with the following exceptions,—the interior and exterior of Redall Hill, and the exterior of Corngreaves Council Schools repainted in 1915.

Most of the Schools are in need of early attention, viz.:—

Wright's Lane Council School	-	Last painted in 1907
Doulton Road	„ „ - „ „	1909
Cradley Heath	„ „ Boys' Dept.	„ „ 1910
The Knowle	„ „ „ „ „	1910
Tividale	„ „ „ „ „	1911
Siviter's Lane	„ „ Mixed Dept.	„ „ 1911
Corngreaves	„ „ Infants' Dept.	„ „ 1911
Corngreaves	„ „ Boys' Dept.	„ „ 1912
Beeches Road	„ „ Infants' Dept.	„ „ 1913
Rowley Regis Church of England School	„ „	1913
Siviter's Lane Council School, Infants' Dept.	„ „	1913
Old Hill Council School, Infants and Girls' Dept.		

Last painted in 1914

The inability to obtain labour and material during the war, and up to the present time is the reason for these conditions.

Heating.-- Shortage of coal supplies has in several instances caused great inconvenience to be experienced in several schools, necessitating the closure of some departments for short periods, otherwise the sanitary condition of the schools is in fairly good working order.

Accommodation.—The total accommodation now provided will suffice for 8,585 children. The present number on the school register is 6,908.

Centres for Cookery and Handicraft are established at Wright's Lane, Siviter's Lane and Tividale Council Schools.

All the Council Schools, with the exception of The Knowle, stand in large play-grounds, and have abundant air space.

Rowley Regis Church of England and The Knowle Council Schools are still slightly affected by mining operations.

The following Table gives a summary of the year's work.

Summary of Medical Inspection Work during 1919.

SCHOOLS.	Number of visits paid to Schools.	Number of Children inspected (routine)			Number of Children presented for special examination.			Number of Children excluded.			Number of parents present at Inspections.	No. of cases in which advice was given.	
		Boys	Girls.	Inf'nts	Boys	Girls	Inf'nts	Boys	Girls	Inf'nts		Writtn	Oral
Cradley Heath	18	137	141	136	36	43	37	0	2	4	72	2	24
Corngreaves	20	121	113	113	30	36	36	1	4	10	152	1	38
Redall Hill	14	16	28	73	92	36	38	0	0	1	50	0	18
Macefield	9	83	42	—	90	81	—	2	5	—	9	0	5
Wright's Lane	10	108	125	136	2	10	34	0	0	10	98	3	32
Old Hill	14	—	36	249	—	47	66	—	1	7	133	2	41
Blackheath	18	96	75	108	93	99	51	0	1.	0	66	39	14
Beeches Road	12	33	38	89	24	28	58	0	0	0	54	15	9
Siviter's Lane	10	53	31	87	27	18	42	0	0	0	43	25	9
Rowley Regis, Church of England	4	20	15	—	19	20	—	0	0	—	0	7	0
The Knowle	10	—	37	101	—	27.	20	—	1	1	19	10	10
Doulton Road	7	50	—	—	25	—	—	1	—	—	1	6	0
Tividale	12	24	37	79	25	52	13	0	0	0	15	16	2
Totals	158	741	718	1171	463	497	395	4	14	33	712	126	202

TABLE I.—Number of Children Inspected from January 1st, 1919, to December 31st, 1919.

A "CODE" GROUPS.

Age	ENTRANTS.							LEAVERS.					
	3 years.	4 years.	5 years.	6 years.	Other Ages.	Total.	Intermediate Group. 8 years.	12 years.	13 years.	14 years.	Other Ages.	Total.	Grand Total.
Boys ...	0	1	538	29	5	573	356	324	53	0	8	385	1314
Girls ...	0	0	552	28	18	598	371	290	56	0	1	347	1316
Totals ...	0	1	1090	57	23	1171	727	614	109	0	9	732	2630

8

B. GROUPS other than "CODE."

	Intermediate Group (other than 8 years)	Special Cases	Re-examinations (i.e. No. of Children re-examined).
Boys ...	0	5	653
Girls ...	0	5	709
Totals ...	0	10	1362

TABLE II.—Return of Defects found in the course of Medical Inspection in 1919.

DEFECT OR DISEASE.		CODE GROUPS.		SPECIALS.	
		Number referred for Treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation but not referred for treatment.	Number referred for Treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation but not referred for treatment.
	Malnutrition	47	56	124	9
Uncleanliness.	Head	39	19	50	0
	Body	14	17	20	0
	Ringworm, head	8	0	8	0
Skin	„ body	1	0	1	0
	Scabies	9	0	13	0
	Impetigo	22	3	26	0
	Other Diseases	4	1	22	4
	Defective Vision & Squint	89	57	278	72
Eye.	External Eye Disease ...	25	9	29	1
Ear.	Defective Hearing	16	5	36	2
	Ear Disease	3	0	30	1
Teeth.	Dental Disease	44	659	97	1
Nose & Throat.	Enlarged Tonsils	69	143	156	40
	Adenoids	6	1	27	5
	Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	13	8	21	11
	Defective Speech	0	6	4	5
Heart and Circulation.	Heart Disease, Organic ...	3	31	11	2
	„ „ Functional	4	11	11	0
	Anæmia	46	14	89	22
Lungs.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis, Definite	2	0	30	0
	Pulmonary Tuberculosis, Suspected	2	0	35	3
	Chronic Bronchitis	4	15	8	0
	Other Disease	6	0	23	2
	Epilepsy	2	0	2	0
Nervous System.	Chorea	2	0	7	0
	Other Diseases	1	2	9	0
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Glands	4	1	26	0
	Bones and Joints	3	0	22	0
	Other Forms	2	0	9	0
	Rickets	2	11	8	0
	Deformities	3	3	16	3
	Other Defects or Diseases	1	14	10	4
Totals		496	1086	1258	187

PHYSICAL CONDITIONS.

Nutrition.

As mentioned in my previous reports, the restrictions on fats, sugar and milk is still telling on the children's health, as shown by the number suffering from malnutrition.

As before explained, "Malnutrition" is a very vague term, as in many instances it is applied to children suffering from other diseases or defects, for instance—Adenoids, Heart Disease, Anæmia and Pulmonary troubles, etc.

Dental Disease.

This disease is still very prevalent. The discrepancy between the figures for this year and last are accounted for by the two School Medical Inspectors adopting different standards.

I see no hope of the amelioration of this disease until the Dental Clinics—so long promised—are established.

Defective Vision.

An Eye Clinic in conjunction with a Dental Clinic is still a great desideratum, as will be seen by the returns in Table II.

Tuberculosis.

The system adopted in dealing with cases of Tuberculosis is the same as in previous years, viz.:—All notified cases are periodically visited by the School Nurses, and re-examined at intervals by the Medical Inspectors. Notes for Sanatorium treatment are obtained from private sources, and through the Education Committee; and treatment is available at the Tuberculosis Dispensary at Dudley, through the Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Dudley joint Tuberculosis Committee.

Twelve cases have been discovered during the year, at the medical inspection, as against fourteen for last year. Three of the cases are from Phthisis, and nine from other Tubercular Diseases.

A detailed statement of all cases of this disease will be found in the School Nurses' Report.

NOTIFIED DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.

Eight cases of Scarlet Fever have been notified during the year, five of them between 5 and 15 years of age. There was no history of infection in either case, and no deaths were registered.

Diphtheria.

Twelve notifications were received during the year, seven of them relating to children between 5 and 15 years. There were no deaths registered in this particular age group.

Measles.

Seven hundred and twenty-four cases have been notified, three hundred and eighty-one relating to children between 5 and 15 years of age, and two deaths were registered under this age group.

These notifications are utterly fallacious for statistical purposes, as only one case per house is compulsorily notifiable for a space of two months. Roughly speaking these numbers represent less than one third of the children affected.

An epidemic commenced in June, and continued with more or less severity throughout the district until the end of the year. The number of children affected at any individual school did not call for any drastic action being taken.

During the Xmas holidays, all the schools that had been affected were thoroughly disinfected.

Pneumonia.

One hundred and twenty cases of this disease have been notified since March 1st, when the compulsory notification of Pneumonia came into operation. Eighteen notifications were of children between the ages of 5 and 15, and two deaths were registered.

UN-NOTIFIED ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Whooping Cough.

According to the weekly School returns, about thirty-five children have been absent on account of this disease throughout the year. There were no deaths.

Mumps.

The School Returns also show that one hundred children, approximately, have been suffering from Mumps during the year. Corngreaves and Cradley Heath Council Schools were most heavily affected.

Influenza.

Ninety-four deaths have been registered from this disease during the year, eight of them occurring in children between 5 and 15 years of age.

The whole of the schools—which had been closed on account of an epidemic of Influenza at the end of 1918, up to end of the Xmas holidays—re-opened on January 6th, when the children were practically free from the disease.

It re-appeared in the early part of February, throughout the whole of the district. During the week ending February 14th, 724 children were absent from the six schools in the lower division of the parish. These schools were closed till March 10th. During the week ending February 21st, there were 376 children absent from the seven schools in the upper division, which necessitated their closure also.

On March 16th, as the epidemic was still very prevalent, I advised a further closure until March 24th.

From February 17th to March 3rd, 1,142 children had been returned as absent from school on account of Influenza.

The schools re-opened on March 24th, with 28 absentees. Since then the disease has been practically extinct.

TABLE IV.—Treatment of Defects of Children during 1919.

Condition	Number of defects found for which treatment was considered necessary			No. of defects for which no report is available	No. of defects treated	Result of Treatment			No. of defects not treated	Per Centage of defects treated
	From previous year	New	Total			Remedied	Improved	Unchanged		
Clothing ...	0	14	14	0	14	9	4	1	0	100
Footwear ...	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	100
Cleanliness of Head	0	50	50	0	50	49	0	0	0	100
Cleanliness of Body	0	20	20	0	20	17	3	0	0	100
Nutrition ...	41	53	94	5	89	30	55	4	0	94.68
Nose and Throat ...	112	92	204	2	166	108	40	18	36	81.37
External Eye Disease	12	17	29	0	29	24	4	1	0	100
Ear Disease	19	11	30	0	30	16	9	5	0	100
Teeth ...	58	39	97	2	61	40	19	2	34	62.88
Heart and Circulation	23	49	72	0	72	23	39	10	0	100
Nervous System	7	5	12	0	12	3	7	2	0	100
Skin	26	44	70	0	70	58	10	2	0	100
Rickets ...	3	5	8	0	8	1	6	1	0	100
Deformities	13	3	16	0	14	2	5	7	2	87.5
Lungs (other than Phthisis)	14	18	32	0	32	20	10	2	0	100
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	27	3	30	0	30	0	18	12	0	100
Tuberculosis (non-pulmonary)	43	9	52	0	52	0	39	13	0	100
Speech ...	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	50
Mental Condition	9	7	16	1	4	0	2	2	11	25
Vision and Squint	162	116	278	5	264	200	41	23	9	94.96
Hearing ...	22	14	36	0	35	16	14	5	1	97.22
Miscellaneous	5	19	24	1	23	17	4	2	0	95.82
Totals ...	598	590	1188	16	1078	635	331	112	94	90.74

TABLE V.—Inspection, Treatment, etc. of Children during 1919.

1.—The total number of children medically inspected (whether Code Group, Special, or Ailing Child)	3985
2.—The number of children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanliness or defective clothing or footgear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treatment) ...	187
3.—The number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.) ...	998
4.—The number of children in (3) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.)	880

SCHOOL NURSES' REPORT, 1919.

The number of school children who have received hospital treatment through the Education Authority are given below, with the names of the different Institutions at which they were treated.

Dudley Eye Infirmary	-	-	226
Dudley Guest Hospital	-	-	80
Dudley Dispensary	-	-	37
Birmingham Ear and Throat Hospital			109
Birmingham Eye Hospital	-		10
Birmingham General Hospital	-		0
Birmingham Orthœpædic Hospital			74
			<hr/>
Total			536

These cases received treatment from the above Institutions, the results of which are included in Table IV.

Other children requiring treatment obtained notes from various other sources.

MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

All Medical Inspections have been attended under the direction of the School Medical Inspectors.

	Seniors	Intermediates	Entrants	Specials	Totals
Lower Wards	425	729	504	672	2330
Upper Wards	304	205	464	641	1614

As a result of Medical Inspections the following exclusions were made :

Verminous Conditions 10, Scabies 1, Eczema 1, Ring-worm 2, Impetigo 5, Suspected Tuberculosis 3, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 5, Chickenpox 5, Eczema Capitis 0, Bronchitis 1, Measles 1, Pleurisy 1, Tubercular Glands 1, Rheumatism 1, Epilepsy 1, Axillary Abscess 1, Whooping Cough 2, Chorea 1, Mumps 1, Conjunctivitis 2.

Phthisis.

In all cases of Phthisis or suspicious Phthisis which come before the School Medical Officers which require further examination or treatment, arrangements are made with the Tuberculosis Officer at Dudley for these cases to attend the Tuberculosis Dispensary and thus receive all available treatment.

They are visited periodically by us and those who are excluded are brought up to the schools quarterly for re-examination until considered fit to attend school regularly.

A classified statement of all cases of Pulmonary and non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis among School Children is shown in report.

School Visits.

Six hundred and thirty five visits have been paid to Schools apart from Medical Inspections.

Classified Statement of Tuberculosis in School Children.

Localisation of Disease	Old Cases	New Cases 1919	Convalescent	Improving	Unchanged	Excluded during 1919	Left the district	Left School 1919	Deaths	Total cases now on Register
Lungs ...	33	3	20	13	3	5	3	6	0	27
Glands ...	28	2	10	17	3	1	0	5	1	24
Bones and Joints ...	10	3	3	7	3	0	0	1	0	12
Abdominal ...	9	4	9	3	1	0	1	0	2	10
Other forms ...	7	0	6	1	0	0	0	1	0	6
Totals ...	87	12	48	41	10	6	4	13	3	79

Summary of Year's Work ending December, 1919.

DEFECTS	Old Cases	New Cases	Cured	Im- proving	Un- changed	Un- treated	Grand Total
Phthisis ...	27	3	—	18	12	—	30
Ton. and Aden. ...	112	104	110	51	18	37	216
Vision ...	129	100	142	53	22	12	229
Blepharitis and other Diseases ...	13	15	22	1	5	—	28
Conjunctivitis ...	2	21	20	2	1	—	23
Strabismus ...	33	39	16	40	16	—	72
Deafness ...	22	15	17	14	5	1	37
Otorrhœa and other Diseases ...	20	18	24	7	7	—	38
Eczema ...	16	123	122	11	6	—	139
Ringworm ...	—	21	18	1	2	—	21
Scabies ...	—	108	105	3	—	—	108
Impetigo ...	—	111	111	—	—	—	111
General Neglect ...	—	26	23	3	—	—	26
Verminous ...	—	119	119	—	—	—	119
Malnutrition ...	92	103	87	99	9	—	195
Bronchitis ...	7	61	61	5	2	—	68
Tuberculosis ...	43	9	—	39	13	—	52
Mentally Defective ...	9	7	—	2	2	12	16
Rickets ...	3	5	1	6	1	—	8
Chorea ...	9	8	7	8	2	—	17
Epilepsy ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Special ...	—	318	317 1 Dead	—	—	—	318
Miscellaneous ...	3	422	422	1	1	1	425
Infectious Diseases ...	—	1774	1771 3 Dead	—	—	—	1774
Totals ..	540	3530	3515	364	125	63	4070

No. of cases visted	-	2678
„ „ re-visited	-	1678,
„ visits to Schools	-	635
„ Medical Inspection visits		158
		<hr/>
Total	-	5149
		<hr/>

(Signed)—E. O. HARRIS,
A. HOMER,
J. HALSALL.

General Review of the relations of the home circumstances and social and industrial conditions to the health and physical condition of the children inspected.

The industrial conditions still remain good, and although the price of commodities is very high there are few if any cases of actual poverty. The employment of children out of school hours is still much in evidence. Housing accommodation is inadequate and consequently overcrowding is very prevalent. The condition of many houses has considerably deteriorated during the war on account of the dearth of labour and the cost of materials. Strenuous efforts are now being made to restore them to their pre-war standards.

As previously mentioned in my report, the restrictions on certain articles of food and the high price of others has rather lowered their normal standard of health. The last Influenza wave in February following so closely on its two predecessors, and also the prevalence of Measles during the last half of the year undoubtedly had a deleterious effect on the general health of the children.

From March 24th, when the Schools were re-opened after the Influenza epidemic, the School routine work has followed its usual course.

Available Methods of Amelioration and Treatment.

The Education Authority have provided notes for the treatment of five hundred and thirty six children at the various neighbouring hospitals, particulars of which will be seen in the School Nurses' Report. This is largely supplemented by notes from private sources.

On March 18th, Dr. Ralph P. Williams, on behalf of the Ministry of Health and the Board of Education, met representatives of the District Council and the Education Committee in reference to the additional duties which are now compulsory under the Education Act, 1918, Section II. viz. :—

- A.—Establishment of Inspection Clinics.
- B.— „ „ Minor Ailments Clinics.
- C.— „ „ Dental Clinics.
- D.—Question of continuing Authority's Hospital Arrangements.
- E.—Provision for the treatment of Vision and Adenoids.
- F.—Provision for the X-ray treatment for Ringworm and Skin diseases.
- G.—Necessity for an additional Nurse.
- H.—Matter of Cleanliness Survey.
- I.—Provision of Special Centres for the Feeble-minded, Crippled and Debilitated Children.

The urgent need for these Centres was specially dwelt upon. Dr. Williams agreed that the district should still be divided into three areas and a Centre provided for each area.

The Staff to consist of the Medical Officer of Health, the School Medical Officer or a general practitioner, clerical assistants and Specialists.

The premises should include a heated room, a weighing room, a waiting room, a consulting room, suitable lavatory accommodation, also a perambulator shed. Hot and cold water should be provided. These same rooms could be utilised for Dental Clinics, also by the Eye Specialist and for the performance of minor operations and X-ray treatment.

The Government would bear 50 per cent of the cost of maintenance, instruments, drugs, etc. if the work was satisfactory. The cost of the building and equipment must be provided by the Local Authority.

Infectious Diseases.

The usual precautions have been taken to prevent the spread of infection, viz.:—Exclusion from School of infected children and contacts; disinfection of clothing and premises; closure of schools or portions of schools when considered necessary.

Review of Methods adopted for dealing with Blind, Deaf, Mentally and Physically Defective and Epileptic Children.

Arrangements with the below-named Institutions are still in operation, viz.:—

The Royal Institution for Deaf and Dumb, Friar Gate, Derby.

The Royal Institution for Deaf and Dumb, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Dudley Education Authority's School for the Deaf.

The General Institution for the Blind, at Birmingham.

School for the Blind, at Sheffield.

At present one child is at the Royal Institution for Deaf and Dumb, at Edgbaston, one at the General Institution for the Blind, at Birmingham, and one at the School for the Blind, at Sheffield.

The following is a return of all exceptional School Children in this District:—

TABLE III.—Numerical Return of all Exceptional Children in the Area in 1919.

				BOYS.	GIRLS.	INFANTS
BLIND. (Including partially Blind).	Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	...	0	1	1
	Attending Certified Schools for the Blind	...	...	1	0	0
	Not at School	...	...	1	0	1
DEAF AND DUMB. (Including partially Deaf).	Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	...	0	0	0
	Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf	...	...	2	0	0
	Not at School	...	...	0	1	0
MENTALLY DEFICIENT.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	...	0	1	0
	Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children	...	...	0	0	0
	Notified to the Local (Control) Authority during the year	...	...	0	0	0
Feeble-Minded.	Not at School	...	...	3	4	0
	At School	...	...	0	0	0
	Not at School	...	...	0	0	0
Imbeciles.	...	...	...	0	2	0
	Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	...	0	0	0
	Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics	...	...	0	0	0
Idiots.	Not at School	...	...	4	1	1
	Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	...	11	8	3
	Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children	...	...	0	0	0
EPILEPTICS.	Not at School	...	...	3	3	11
	Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	...	17	14	11
	Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children	...	...	0	0	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Not at School	...	...	3	3	1
	Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	...	1	2	0
	Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children	...	...	0	0	0
Other Forms of Tuberculosis.	...	...	...	1	3	0
	Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	...	0	0	0
	Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children	...	...	1	0	0
Cripples, other than Tubercular.	Not at School	...	...	6	3	0
	Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	...	2	4	0
	Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children	...	...	...	...	...
PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE.	Retarded 2 years	...	...	...	...	...
	Retarded 3 years	...	...	...	...	...

DULL OR BACKWARD.*				...	...	...

*Judged according to Age and Standard.

As this will be my last report to you, I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the universal courtesy and consideration I have received from all members of the Education Committee. I also tender my thanks to Drs. Tibbetts and McQueen, and to all the members of the Education Staff, for their co-operation and loyalty to me during the whole period of my term of office.

I have the honour to remain,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. G. BEASLEY,

School Medical Officer to the Rowley Regis
Urban District Education Committee.

